



# Litter Picks

Electronic Newsletter

## November 2007

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Enhancement

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DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

*Welcome to Litter Picks, a look at litter prevention news in the Commonwealth and across the nation. We hope that some of this information is helpful to you in your programs, and hope you'll help us with news from your area related to litter prevention and awareness. Had a successful clean up event? Recognized companies or citizens for their clean up efforts? Let us know by sending this information to Sheila Barnett at [smbarnett@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:smbarnett@deq.virginia.gov).*

### The Litter Manual is Available

A litter task subcommittee made up of Ann Masters, Megan Brown, Clara Mills, Debbie Blanton, and Gloria Puffinburger worked with DEQ to create a manual that will be helpful in providing litter program managers guidance in designing and managing their litter programs. The manual provides benchmarking steps for litter program managers to consider, examples of litter program manager job descriptions, and examples of litter programs used in Virginia. There is also information about the non-competitive litter grant, and other helpful resources.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please send them to Sheila Barnett at (804) 698-4055 or [smbarnett@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:smbarnett@deq.virginia.gov)

### PTA Cleanup and Environmental Stewardship

The PTA at Haycock Elementary School in **Falls Church** has discovered a way to bring employees, parents and students together to better their community and educate the public about the impact of litter on their environment. The PTA organized school litter pickups and environmental education events to impart the value of community service to their children.

Before the cleanups began, fifth grade students received a brief lesson on water quality and monitoring. Cathy Saunders, a certified Fairfax County stream monitor and watershed steward, showed students some "critters" that were collected from the stream behind the school. Some of the animals can tolerate a little bit of pollution, but some can't tolerate it at all. When litter gets into the stream, it can harm or kill them.

The PTA calls this program The Primmit Run Clean-Up Program. Information about it is posted on their website at:

<http://www.haycockpta.org/index.php/site/>

For more information, the schools phone number is (703) 531-4000.

### New Officers for the Virginia Council for Litter Prevention and Recycling

The **VCLPR** met on Wednesday, November 7, 2007 at the Henrico Training Center. The following people have been elected to serve as officers for the Council in 2008:

Julia May, Stafford County, VCLPR President  
(540) 658-4579 or [jmay@co.stafford.va.us](mailto:jmay@co.stafford.va.us)

Gloria Puffinburger, Frederick County, Vice-President  
(540) 665-5643 or [gpuffinb@co.frederick.va.us](mailto:gpuffinb@co.frederick.va.us)

Patty Averett, Amelia County, Secretary  
(804) 561-3039 or [ameliacoadmin@tds.net](mailto:ameliacoadmin@tds.net)

Megan Brown, Henrico County, Treasurer  
(804) 501-7277 or [bro77@co.henrico.va.us](mailto:bro77@co.henrico.va.us)

The next VCLPR meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 17, 2008 at the Henrico Training Center.

### Pushing for Enforcement of Litter Laws

On November 1, 2007, Keep Southwest Virginia Beautiful hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia Litter Control Summit in Charlottesville. A steering committee was formed with seven volunteers from around Virginia agreeing to take the reins in designing a new statewide association dedicated to litter and environmental law enforcement.

The keynote speaker was Lieutenant Randy Fisher of the North Myrtle Beach Police Department who serves as the President of the South Carolina Litter Control Association. This is an organization that Keep Southwest Virginia Beautiful hopes to use as a model for an effective litter enforcement program for Virginia.

In Wise County, litter officers are successfully implementing a Civil Damages Ordinance against people who have been caught littering. During their first year, they had a 100% conviction rate for their first 25 cases, with most fines levied between \$1,000 to \$3,000 plus court costs.

For more information, contact Bobby Justus, the Virginia Assign-a-Highway Program Manager, at (276) 628-1600 or [bjustus\\_assignahighway@yahoo.com](mailto:bjustus_assignahighway@yahoo.com)

## Litter Picks Continued

### Keep Leesburg Beautiful Wins 2007 Scenic Virginia Award

On October 26, 2007, Scenic Virginia held its fifth annual awards luncheon at the Kent-Valentine House in Richmond. Keep **Leesburg** Beautiful won an award in the best local anti-litter practices category. Scenic Virginia recognized Keep Leesburg Beautiful because of their community clean ups and beautification efforts. Keep Leesburg Beautiful also has an environmental education program which strives to reduce litter and encourage civic activism.

For more information about Scenic Virginia and their annual awards program, go to: [www.scenicvirginia.org](http://www.scenicvirginia.org)

For information about Keep Leesburg Beautiful, contact Tony Hayes, **Loudoun County** Office of Solid Waste Management, [tony.hayes@loudoun.gov](mailto:tony.hayes@loudoun.gov) or 703-777-0187

### Keep America Beautiful Nationwide Cleanup Results

KAB reported that 2.8 million volunteers removed 200 million pounds of litter and debris from roadways, parks and bodies of water from March 1 – May 31, 2007. Here are some statistics reported by the KAB

- ✓ 3,500 illegal dump sites were picked up.
- ✓ 10,000 abandoned vehicles were disposed of
- ✓ 178,000 miles of roadway were cleaned
- ✓ 121,000 acres of parks and public lands were picked up
- ✓ 7,000 miles of rivers, lakes and streams were cleaned
- ✓ 3,900 miles of hiking, biking, and nature trails were picked up.

For more information about KAB and the nationwide cleanup program, visit the KAB website by going to: [www.kab.org](http://www.kab.org)

### Dickenson County Cleans up 100<sup>th</sup> Illegal Dump Site

Two years' ago, a litter summit was held in St. Paul, Virginia that brought together litter control officers from **Russell**, **Buchanan** and **Dickenson** Counties. The counties decided to work together to clean up illegal dumpsites and work on catching the litterbugs. These counties purchased and used surveillance cameras (known as groundhog cameras) to catch people illegally dumping. So far, more than 10 people in Dickenson County have been caught, charged with littering, and have been taken to court.

Dumpers face up to a \$5,000 fine for dumping. In most cases, they must clean up the whole dump site and pay for court costs if convicted.

Although there are still 162 more illegal dump sites that have been identified in Dickenson County and approximately 1,000 throughout Southwest Virginia, Toby Edwards believes that the reduced number of illegal dump sites are a direct result of the litter summit that was held two years' ago.

For more information, contact Toby Edwards, Director, Cumberland Plateau Regional Waste Authority, at [tobyedwards@bvunet.net](mailto:tobyedwards@bvunet.net) or (276) 889-1778

### Virginia Environmental Education Training Workshop

On October 23, 2007, the Maymont Nature Center in Richmond hosted an Environmental Training Workshop. The Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts celebrated Natural Conservation Week October 14 - 20, 2007. The day's events included the following resources: Project Learning Tree's Places We Live module, Virginia's State Parks Your Backyard Classroom; Stream Cleanups as Meaningful watershed educational experiences, and several solid waste-related educational activities: Waste Management Jeopardy, Environmental Millionaire, Wartville Wizard, and Luscious Layered Landfills.

There were over 50 participants from local governments and schools. For more information, contact Dana Roberts at [dana.roberts@vaswcd.org](mailto:dana.roberts@vaswcd.org) or (804) 559-0324

### Capturing Trash from Stormwater Runoff

Mesh bags designed to capture trash that washes into storm drains and can hold up to 11 cubic feet of litter have been installed in Prince George's County, MD. These bags trap debris that would otherwise flow into the Anacostia River and ultimately into the Chesapeake Bay. A boom truck is used for lifting and emptying the bags. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Approximately 20,000 tons of trash annually flows into the Anacostia River.

The EPA contributed to the construction of the traps by earmarking \$1 million dollars for a low impact development, storm water remediation, and trash remediation project in Prince George's County.

This project is known as the Takoma Branch project. For more information, contact Steven Reynolds, Anacostia Watershed Society at (301) 699-6204 or [steven@anacostiaaws.org](mailto:steven@anacostiaaws.org) or visit the Anacostia Watershed Society website at: <http://www.anacostiaaws.org/>

### The Quest for a Clean Community

The Quest for a Clean Community is a board game that is printed on a recycled handkerchief was developed by Clara Mills, Environmental Education Program Manager, **Spotsylvania County** and Megan Brown, Executive Program Manager, **Keep Henrico Beautiful**. The Quest for a Clean Community project won an award from Keep Virginia Beautiful in October 2007.

Players sit around the handkerchief (game board) and read each other questions pertaining to litter and recycling. If the player answers the question correctly, he or she may advance his/her mover piece (a bottle cap). Players can also advance if they land on the square that states that they organized a litter pickup or started a recycling program. If the players land on a square that states that they didn't recycle motor oil or they found an illegal dump, they move backwards.

To obtain a Quest for a Clean Community game, contact Clara Mills at 540-507-7709 or [cmills@spotsylvania.va.us](mailto:cmills@spotsylvania.va.us) Or Megan Brown at 804-501-7277 or [bro77@co.henrico.va.us](mailto:bro77@co.henrico.va.us)

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